

Lucy Fletcher Chapter

Dedication of the Monument
on the
Old Crown Point Military Road
in Plymouth



LUCY FLETCHER CHAPTER, D. A. R.
MCMXXVII

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INSCRIPTION

CROWN POINT MILITARY ROAD
BUILT BY GENERAL JEFFERY AMHERST
1758-1759
A MILE ENCAMPMENT LIES ONE-QUARTER MILE WEST
ERECTED IN 1924 BY LUCY FLETCHER CHAFFIN
DAUGHTER OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

DEDICATION OF THE MONUMENT
AT THE HEAD OF LAKE AMHERST
IN PLYMOUTH AT THE POINT
WHERE THE OLD CROWN POINT
MILITARY ROAD IS CROSSED BY THE
PRESIDENTIAL HIGHWAY

October 2, 1926

Exercises in the Church at Tyson

1. THE LORD'S PRAYER, led by the Chaplain:

Mrs. W. N. Bryant.

2. PRESENTATION OF THE DEED:

The Regent, Mrs. Mary E. Fletcher: Some time ago, Judge Scott suggested that the Lucy Fletcher Chapter place a marker on the Old Crown Point Road in Plymouth, and his suggestion was made forcible by the offer of a boulder and a square rod of ground on which to place it.

Judge Charles Scott of Tyson.

Judge Scott: Madam Regent and members of the Lucy Fletcher Chapter: It is a great pleasure both to my brother and to myself to present to you the deed to the little plot of ground on which you have put a monument. For two reasons we are happy to give you the ground; first, because of our great respect for your society, which is perpetuating the memory of that army which in valor and achievement was greatest of all armies, and second because our own great-grandfather fought in that army.

You are preserving for younger generations landmarks that were fast disappearing. About forty years ago I went with John W. Stickney to the spot where the old military road crossed the Black River and found there some of the logs which were undoubtedly put in by General Stark as abutments to the bridge. About three years ago I went again, this time with the late Fletcher S. Hines of Ludlow, and we could find no trace of the logs. When I was quite a young lad an old man told me that when the soldiers were building the bridge they were attacked by Indians, and that a soldier, killed in the raid, was buried near the bridge. He said there was a superstition among the early settlers that a dam which caused water to flow over a grave would not hold.

Plymouth had the honor of being the home of the last surviving widow of a revolutionary soldier. Mrs. Esther Damon, who died about eighteen years ago at the advanced age of ninety years, married, when she was about fifteen years old, the then elderly Noah Damon. How prepossessing a man Noah Damon was I do not know, or whether it was a love match, but it secured

for his widow a quarterly dividend from Uncle Sam's pension payroll for the greater part of her very long life.

I again express the satisfaction which my brother and I feel in taking part in your excellent work.

The Regent: For the Lucy Fletcher Chapter I accept this deed with all the duties and obligations it implies, and I pledge the Chapter to faithful stewardship of the trust imposed in them.

For each member of the Chapter I thank Judge Scott for his generous gift and express our gratitude for his interest and hearty cooperation.

4. REPORT OF THE MONUMENT COMMITTEE:

Madam Regent and Daughters: Your monument is of stone called gneiss, a monolith ten feet long, standing seven feet above its deep concrete foundation.

Your committee's purpose was to make this a monument, not a marker; to have it simple, rugged, and enduring; in size, commanding; in color, blending with the tone of its sylvan background; the whole suggestive of the sturdy habit of our ancestors whose deeds it commemorates. For the purpose we used a section of Judge Scott's ledge instead of his boulder.

The bronze tablet, made by Albert Russell and Sons Company of Newburyport, Massachusetts, bears the inscription, placed so high that "he who runs may read"—

CROWN POINT MILITARY ROAD
BUILT BY GENERAL JOSEPH AMHERST
1759-1760

26 MILE ENCAMPMENT LIES ONE-QUARTER MILE WEST

ERECTED IN 1926 BY LUCY FLETCHER CHAPTER
DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Your committee was at work on the foundations when a man passing in a cart asked if he could help. He brought us four loads of excellent gravel and clean cobbles; he took us home to share his good dinner. When we asked to settle the account Mr. McDermott said, "You are doing a good work and it is in my neighborhood. I want to do my part. I did not hire out, I helped." In terse words, Mr. McDermott expressed that spirit upon which our national association is founded. We met the same

friendliness when the doors of this church were opened to us, when the road patrol promised to hold traffic during our short ceremony at the monument. We are indebted to Mr. Phelan of Ludlow for the use of a truck, to Mrs. Barton and to Mr. Josephyn for our music. All this quick and helpful appreciation from neighbors has made the task for which we were chosen a real joy.

In our membership, we are indebted to Mrs. A. M. Fletcher and to Miss Fanny Fletcher for cutting the stone and building the foundation; and to Mrs. W. W. Stickney for transporting it to its present site.

Respectfully submitted,

SARAH STICKNEY
FANNY FLETCHER
MARY HINES
EMMA GATES

4. HAIL, COLUMBIA (patriotic song of the time of the Revolution):
Mrs. Olin Gay of Canastota.

5. REMARKS BY THE STATE REGENT:

Mrs. Kittredge of Springfield.

Madam Regent and members of the Lucy Fletcher Chapter: The monument we are unveiling today will perpetuate the memory of those splendid men, who with vigor and courage, fought their way over almost insurmountable obstacles to victory. I often wonder if they realized, in those days of long ago, how proud we, their descendants, would be to honor their accomplishment? Life and liberty depended on their action. Thine not to falter! And while we are proud to honor them, I question, are we following in their footsteps in loyalty to home and to country? Are we standing for the vital things of today? Those men who blazed over these rugged hills the road we consecrate, worked not alone for their own safety. They bled to take succor to their neighbors, more sorely pressed than they. May this monument, like the pebble thrown into water, sending ripples far beyond our vision, continue to bring inspiration to many a passer-by in the far future.

The Regent: Last year, when we came away from the dedication of the General Lewis Morris Marker in Springfield, having listened to the very thoughtful, clear and illuminating address delivered there, I said, "I wish we might have Dr. Mott speak at our dedication." My wish has come true and it gives me the greatest pleasure to present Dr. George Mott of Springfield, Vermont.

Dr. Mott: Madam State Regent; Madam Regent; Officers of the Lucy Fletcher Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Our first introduction to the Crown Point Road, whose building we are commemorating today, is in the year 1756 when the Governor of Massachusetts sent fourteen men into the wilderness to survey that part of the wilds which lay between the Connecticut River and Lake Champlain. In 1759 Colonel Hawkes, with a force of three hundred men, built the Crown Point Road from Lake Champlain through Addison, the Otter Creek country and Rutland to Clarendon. This feat occupied the better part of forty-four days. In 1760, General Goff with a force of eight hundred men began to construct a road from Fort No. 4 on the Connecticut River, now known as Charlestown, through the towns of Springfield, Weathersfield, Cavendish, and Plymouth, joining the road constructed the year before. This through road from Charlestown to Lake Champlain, now known in history as the Crown Point Road, we commemorate today.

There are three reasons why we should not forget the Crown Point Road. In the first place, because of its military value. Let us remember that the French and Indian Wars, fought between the years 1733 and 1760, were to decide in a large measure the fate of the American continent. England claimed all the land from the Atlantic seaboard as far west as discovery had uncovered the distant lands. France, on the other hand, claimed much of the same territory. In addition France had a better foothold than England upon the interior of the continent. She held Canada, Forts Ticonderoga and Crown Point, a line of forts down the Mississippi River from Niagara Falls to Louisiana, and the large province of Louisiana itself. She thus encircled the English colonies, whose lands lay between her forts.

Her first purpose in this series of wars was to split the colonies of New England from the Middle Atlantic States. To do this

she employed the same tactics as were later used by the British in the war of the American Revolution. She made a direct attack on that portion of territory of the English colonies lying along the Champlain Valley and affording direct access to the Hudson River and New York City. The opening battle of this war was fought in 1755 at Pittsburgh, and is remembered chiefly because of the presence of George Washington. In 1758 General Lord Geoffrey Amherst was sent to America by the Crown to take charge of the campaign against the French. He sent General Wolfe to Quebec where the French were overcome; General Johnson to Fort Niagara, which he captured; while he himself left Boston and marched to Crown Point where he successfully defeated the French.

It was at this time that General Amherst saw the strategic value of the Crown Point Road, connecting as it did the Connecticut River Valley with Crown Point, and affording quick and easy means of communication for men and munitions in time of war; and it is not to be doubted that because of the construction of this road the campaigns instituted by General Amherst against the French were successful. Therefore, without exaggeration, we may say that the Crown Point Road, which we commemorate today, was largely instrumental in deciding the outcome of the French and Indian Wars.

Which leads us to our second appreciation of the value of this road, namely, it helped to determine the fact that this continent should be English and not French. Let us not fail to remember that the French people had the greatest claim upon the American continent. They landed here first. While the first English settlement was made in 1609 at Jamestown, Virginia, the first French landing was made in 1600 by Champlain. In 1665 the French had penetrated the wilderness as far south as the Isle LaMotte, while the English did not reach Addison until 1690. Moreover, the French were more suited as owners of this territory, which we now know as Vermont. If our ancestors had landed at the mouth of the Mississippi River, Vermont would never have been tilled. A great empire would have grown up in the Mississippi Valley, and Vermont would have been left to hunters, trappers, and fishers, for the French were not farmers—they were adventurers and *couriers-du-bois*. The colonists from England were the best type of middle-class farmers, and wherever they settled they were compelled to build a fort to protect their farm lands and homes. The French were under no such necessity, but moved freely from

point to point. This may explain the reason why the French had penetrated much farther into the wilderness than the English, because of the fact that they were more suited to the virgin forests.

Moreover, the French were Catholic and not Protestant, and the fate of this continent in a religious sense for a long time was weighed in the balance, for the type of civilization which came with the English was a civilization of liberty, which meant churches, homes, schools, and town meetings. Moreover, the Indians who held the land preferred the French to the English. The French did not drive them from their hunting grounds as the English did, and it was against Indian, as well as French power that English settlements were gradually made. The French and Indian Wars, then, settled the fate of the greater part of the American continent, and decided in favor of the English type of civilization; and this Crown Point Road, whose construction we remember today, was largely instrumental in bringing these conditions about. Therefore, I say we do well to remember its importance in American history. It helped to bring about those forms of social, religious, and political life which we cherish today as our greatest possessions.

And, finally, we remember this road because of the men with whose names it is associated. The first of these is Lord Jeffrey Amherst, who caused it to be built in 1759. He was a great soldier. He was a great soldier before he was sent to America. He had fought at Fossenoey in the wars of the Austrian Succession. It was because of his military knowledge and commanding ability that he was chosen to defend England's wealthiest colony, and make it completely a British possession. As a major-general he was sent to America and under his commanding leadership Ticonderoga, Montreal, Fort Niagara, and Crown Point, the keys to the situation, were in succession conquered. As a reward for his activities for the colonies, he was made Governor General of the King's armies in British North America, retiring to his home in England, named "Montreal," full of years and honors. Vermont can never forget her connection through this road with this outstanding figure of early history.

And again the Crown Point Road reminds us of Ethan Allen and his Green Mountain Boys. In the strenuous times of the war of the American Revolution, the Crown Point Road again proved its usefulness, for in 1775 over this road Ethan Allen made a quick and successful movement to Fort Ty. I commend to you his biography telling the story of his captivity on a British man-of-

war in Halifax, Falmouth, and New York City, which makes fascinating reading. And we do well to remember the heroism, the patience and courage of Ethan Allen, whose name is forever linked with that of the Crown Point Road. Nor shall we forget that General Stark's name is linked perpetually with the Crown Point Road, for starting from Charlestown, or as it was called Fort No. 4, with eight hundred men after the battle of Benaker Hill, he made a long march over the Crown Point Road and succeeded in stopping General Burgoyne at the famous battle of Bennington in 1777. This brave soldier, whom Vermonters revere, lived to see the fruits of his valor, dying at the age of ninety, beloved and honored by his fellow citizens.

So I say because of these men and their activities which have preserved for us our liberties and our opportunities, the members of the Lucy Fletcher Chapter of the D.A.R. do well to mark this road today. The coming generations of Vermont boys and girls must not be allowed to forget this long, hard, and difficult pathway through the wilderness over which men have marched to defend and secure our heritage.

The Regent: It is with deep gratitude that I express our appreciation of the beautiful service Dr. Mott has rendered us, and of the vivid picture he has shown us of the times and events we are met to commemorate.

7. AMERICA, THE BEAUTIFUL:

Mrs. Gay and the Audience
Mrs. Barton at the organ.

Exercises at the Monument

The rain of the morning had gone, air washed clear and pure, a soft white cloud rising from the lake—it was as if "the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters." "The absence of the life was His also."

1. BUGLE CALL, Formation: *Mr. Charles Jersdlyn, Ludlow.*

2. UNVEILING: *Mary Elizabeth Charlton.*

An evergreen wreath which veils the tablet is taken down and placed at its base by a great-great-grandchild of Lucy Fletcher.

3. DEDICATION.

The Regent: In the name of the Lucy Fletcher Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, I dedicate this monument, first, a memorial to our forefathers who subdued the wilderness, and by their foresight, sacrifice and steadfastness won for us the heritage of Freedom; second, an inspiration to their children's children to courage, patriotism, loyalty and service, and third, an offering to the honor and glory of God.

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills,
From whence cometh my help.
My help cometh from the Lord,
Which made heaven and earth.

He will not suffer thy foot to be moved;
He that keepeth thee will not slumber.
Behold, he that keepeth Israel
Shall neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is thy keeper;
The Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand.
The sun shall not smite thee by day,
Nor the moon by night.

The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil;
He shall preserve thy soul.
The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in,
From this time forth and forevermore.

4. BUGLE CALL, Taps:

Mr. Jersdlyn.